UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/RES/53/31
5 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 33

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.38 and Add.1)]

53/31. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling the Manila Declaration[2] adopted by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies[3] in June 1988,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] A/43/538, annex.

[3] Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.

Recalling its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration[4] and Plan of Action[5] adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994, as well as its resolutions 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996 and 52/18 of 21 November 1997,

Recalling also the document entitled "Progress Review and Recommendations", adopted by the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development, held at Bucharest from 2 to 4 September 1997,[6] in which guidelines, principles and recommendations were addressed to Governments, civil society, the private sector, donor countries and international community,

Noting in particular the recommendations contained in that document addressed to the United Nations system and the international financial organizations,[7]

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance organized in 1998, as well as those currently being planned, under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Taking note of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this question at its forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Also bearing in mind that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will be held at Cotonou, Benin, in the year 2000,

Stressing the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

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[4] A/49/713, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] A/52/334, appendix.

[7] Ibid., sect. IV.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[8] and its focus on innovative ways and means to enable the Organization to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to requests of Member States for assistance in the field of good governance and democratization,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the activities carried out by the United Nations system, as well as the observations and recommendations contained in the report, with respect to building a political culture through human rights observance, mobilization of civil society, electoral assistance, free and independent media, enhancing the rule of law and improving accountability, transparency and quality of public sector management and democratic structures of government;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute actively to the follow-up process of the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;[9]

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy;

5. *Welcomes* the measures taken within the organizations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for coordinating their work carried out in the field of democratization;

6. *Welcomes also* the work carried out by the follow-up mechanism to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;

7. *Recognizes* that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts;

8. *Stresses* that the activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;

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[8] A/53/554 and Corr.1.

[9] Ibid., chap. II.

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

67th plenary meeting
23 November 1998

UNITED
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A/RES/53/32
6 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 38 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.35 and Add.1)*]

53/32. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 50/23 of 5 December 1995, 51/34 of 9 December 1996 and 52/26 of 26 November 1997 adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[1] ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[2] ("the Agreement"), provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

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[1] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[2] Resolution 48/263, annex.

Noting with satisfaction that "Oceans and seas" will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session in 1999,

Reaffirming the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3] as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, in particular paragraph 36 thereof dealing with oceans and seas,[4]

Recalling that, by its resolution 49/131 of 19 December 1994, it proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement,

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Taking note with concern of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Conscious also of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

Taking account of the importance of reliable hydrographic and nautical information to enhance the safety of navigation,

Expressing its concern at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

Expressing its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Resolution S–19/2, annex.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;

2. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 19 to 28 May 1999, during which, on 24 May, the election of seven judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") will take place;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Tribunal, established in accordance with annex VI to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997;

7. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority"), and emphasizes the importance of continued progress towards the adoption of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Authority and the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the Tribunal;

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[5] A/53/456.

11. *Appeals* to all members of the Authority and all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") during its third[6] and fourth[7] sessions, held in New York from 4 to 15 May and from 31 August to 4 September 1998, respectively, in adopting its rules of procedure and in adopting provisionally its scientific and technical guidelines aimed at assisting States to prepare their submissions regarding the outer limits of their continental shelf;

13. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission in New York from 3 to 14 May and from 30 August to 3 September 1999, respectively;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea[5] and for the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing advice and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide timely information on the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet;[8]

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

19. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, and to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;

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[6] CLCS/7.

[7] CLCS/9.

[8] www.un.org/Depts/los.

20. *Notes with interest* the ongoing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

21. *Invites* States to cooperate in carrying out hydrographic surveys and nautical services for the purpose of ensuring safe navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their activities so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale;

22. *Urges* all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. *Calls upon* States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that organization;

24. *Takes note* of the work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and of its report entitled "The Ocean ... Our Future", and welcomes its issuance in the context of the International Year of the Ocean;

25. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

26. *Reaffirms also* its decision, in resolution S–19/2 of 28 June 1997, to consider the results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "Oceans and seas" in 1999, under the agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea";

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to circulate the report sufficiently in advance of consideration by the General Assembly of the item concerning oceans and the law of the sea;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

69th plenary meeting
24 November 1998

UNITED
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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/53/33
6 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 38 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.45 and Add.1)*]

53/33. Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/215 of 20 December 1991, 49/116 and 49/118 of 19 December 1994, 51/36 of 9 December 1996 and 52/29 of 26 November 1997, as well as other resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Emphasizing the useful role that report plays in bringing together information relating to the sustainable development of the world's marine living resources, provided by States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional fisheries organizations, and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that, while significant work remains, interested parties have made real progress towards sustainable fisheries management,

Welcoming the progress in organizing new regional organizations and arrangements in several heretofore unmanaged fisheries,

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[1] A/53/473.

Noting that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stated that 60 to 70 per cent of world fisheries are either fully exploited or overfished, and encouraging, in this regard, the current intergovernmental negotiating process at that organization to address the issue of fishing overcapacity,

Noting with concern the reports of continued loss of sea birds, particularly albatross, as a result of incidental mortality from long-line fishing operations, and the loss of other marine species, including sharks and fin-fish species, as a result of incidental mortality,

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution and with the duties of States to cooperate in the conservation and management of marine living resources, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[2]

Once again expressing concern at the impact of large-scale drift-net fishing on the marine living resources of the oceans and seas, and noting that there are continuing reports of activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215,

Concerned also to ensure that the implementation of resolution 46/215 in some parts of the world does not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift-nets that contravene the resolution,

Expressing concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in areas under national jurisdiction on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly developing States, and the continuing reports of unauthorized fishing activities, inconsistent with the terms of resolution 49/116, in zones of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, pursuant to a proposal made at the twenty-second session of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in March 1997, that organization agreed to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action aiming at a reduction in the incidental catch of sea birds, to organize an expert consultation to develop and propose guidelines leading to a plan of action for the conservation and effective management of shark populations, and to hold a technical consultation on the management of fishing capacity to draft guidelines for the control and management of fishing capacities,

Noting with satisfaction that the Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and the Incidental Catch of Sea Birds, held from 26 to 30 October 1998, and its preparatory meeting, held in July 1998, produced draft plans of action or elements thereof for approval at the February 1999 meeting of the Committee on Fisheries,

Recognizing the importance of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[3] and the Agreement to Promote

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[2] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[3] A/CONF.164/37; see also A/50/550, annex I.

Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and noting that neither of these agreements has yet entered into force,

Noting that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including guidelines for fishing on the high seas and in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards,

Recalling that Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[4] calls upon States to take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter reflagging of vessels by their nationals as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management rules for fishing vessels on the high seas,

Noting with satisfaction that "Oceans and seas" will be the sectoral theme discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session in 1999,

1. *Reaffirms the importance* it attaches to sustainable management and conservation of the marine living resources of the world's oceans and seas, and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular, the provisions on cooperation set out in part V and part VII, section 2, of the Convention regarding straddling stocks, highly migratory species, marine mammals, anadromous stocks and marine living resources of the high seas;

2. *Also reaffirms the importance* it attaches to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118 and 52/29, and urges States and other entities to enforce fully such measures;

3. *Requests* all participants to work for the adoption of the outcomes of the technical consultation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome from 26 to 30 October 1998, and encourages all States to act responsibly, as appropriate, at national, regional and global levels to implement the action plans or the guidelines, in particular those for the management of fishing capacity, once adopted by the Committee on Fisheries;

4. *Calls upon* States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[3] that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time, and to consider applying it provisionally;

5. *Also calls upon* States and other entities referred to in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas that have not submitted instruments of acceptance of the Agreement to consider doing so at the earliest possible time;

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

6. *Urges* all authorities of members of the international community that have not done so to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas, and to impose appropriate sanctions, consistent with their obligations under international law, against acts contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215;

7. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to take measures, including measures to deter reflagging to avoid compliance with applicable obligations, to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags do not fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the authorities of the State concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and do not fish on the high seas in contravention of the applicable conservation and management rules;

8. *Urges* States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action, including through assistance to developing countries, to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

9. *Reiterates its call* on organizations with development assistance programmes to make it a high priority to support, including through financial and/or technical assistance, the efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated, that any duplication of activities and reporting is minimized, and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 52/29, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 52/29, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments".

69th plenary meeting
24 November 1998

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A

General Assembly

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A/RES/53/34
13 January 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 32

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.41 and Corr.1)*]

53/34. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region;

2. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of

the Organization, in particular actions that may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] submitted in accordance with its resolution 52/14 of 20 November 1997;

4. *Recalls* the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone, held in Brasilia in 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[2] to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the holding of the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone in Buenos Aires, on 21 and 22 October 1998, and takes note of the Final Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the meeting;[3]

6. *Welcomes* the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[4] and the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[5]

7. *Also welcomes* the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,[6] adopted in November 1997, as well as the decision on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons taken by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held in Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998;[7]

8. *Further welcomes* the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and in that regard commends the active efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and the States that have contributed to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group;

9. *Welcomes* the agreement reached in Abuja on 1 November 1998[8] by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta as a positive step towards national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, and in that context commends the mediation efforts conducted by the Economic Community of

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[1] A/53/488.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] A/53/650, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[5] See A/50/426, annex.

[6] A/53/78, annex.

[7] A/53/179, annex I.

[8] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1028.

West African States and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, and calls upon the Government and the so-called junta to abide by the agreement;

10. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Nigeria to carry out the plan for transition to general elections and the establishment of new democratic structures, and welcomes the action of the Government in releasing political prisoners as well as the continued progress being made in the observance of human rights in that country;

11. *Views with concern* the present armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, stresses the need to respect the territorial integrity of that country, urges the parties to that conflict and the States that have offered their good offices to bring hostilities to an end and to spare no effort in the negotiations leading to the restoration of peace, welcomes the positive response by the Southern African Development Community to the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide assistance in the restoration of peace and stability in that country, and also welcomes the decision of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to conduct elections in that country in June 1999;

12. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by the Government of Angola in implementing the Lusaka Protocol,[9] and reiterates that the primary cause of the crisis in Angola and of the current impasse in the peace process is the failure by the leadership of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola to comply with its obligations under the "Acordos de Paz",[10] the Lusaka Protocol and relevant Security Council resolutions;

13. *Reaffirms* its willingness to contribute by all means at its disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola;

14. *Urges* the international community and all relevant international and private organizations to fulfil expeditiously their pledges to provide assistance to facilitate the demobilization and social reintegration of ex-combatants, the demining process, the resettlement of displaced persons and the reconstruction of the Angolan economy in order to consolidate the gains in the peace process;

15. *Commends* the efforts of Member States and humanitarian organizations in rendering humanitarian assistance to Angola and Sierra Leone, and urges them to continue to provide and to increase such assistance;

16. *Affirms* the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[11]

17. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts towards the achievement of appropriate regulation of maritime transport of radioactive and toxic wastes, taking into account the interests of coastal

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[9] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1441.

[10] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*, document S/22609.

[11] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

States, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regulations of the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

18. *Views with concern* the increase in drug trafficking and related crimes, including drug abuse, and calls upon the States members of the zone to promote regional cooperation to combat all aspects of the problem of drugs and related offences;

19. *Recognizes*, in the light of the number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance by States members of the zone, so as to ensure a timely and effective response;

20. *Welcomes* the offer by Benin to host the sixth meeting of the States members of the zone;

21. *Requests* the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

70th plenary meeting
25 November 1998